

REMARKS

The applicant has had an opportunity to carefully consider the Examiner's Office Action of July 7, 2003 and believes this amendment is fully responsive to every point raised by the Examiner. Reconsideration of the application, as amended is respectfully requested. Claims 1, 2, 4, 7, 8, 10, 11, 13, 15, 17, 20-23, 28, 29, 31, 34, 35, 37, 38, 40, 42, 44, 47-50 and 55-94 remain in the application after this amendment is entered.

THE OFFICE ACTION:

Claims 1, 5, 6, 13-15, 18, 28, 32, 33, 40-42 and 45 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as obvious over U.S. Patent No. 3,781,511 to Rygiol in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,416,299 to Tabata et al. (Tabata).

Claims 1, 16, 17, 28, 43 and 44 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over U.S. Patent No. 5,220,151 to Terayama et al. (Terayama).

Claims 24-27 and 47-50 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Tabata.

Claims 2-4, 7-12, 19, 29-31, 34-39, 46 and 51-54 are identified as dependent claims that would be given favorable consideration if suitably recast in independent form.

Claims 20-23 are allowed.

THE ART REJECTIONS:

Claims 1, 13, 15, 28, 40 and 42 Patentably Distinguish Over Rygiol in View of Tabata

Claims 2, 9, 29 and 36 are among the claims that the Examiner has identified as dependent claims that would be given favorable consideration if suitably recast in independent form.

As amended, claim 1 essentially places claims 2 and 9 in independent form. Therefore, applicant submits that amended claim 1 and claims dependent thereon (claims 13 and 15) are currently in condition for allowance with respect to Rygiol and Tabata.

As amended, claim 28 essentially places claims 29 and 36 in independent form. Therefore, the applicant submits that claim 28 and claims dependent thereon (claims 40 and 42) are currently in condition for allowance with respect to Rygiol and Tabata.

Claims 1, 17, 28 and 44 Patentably Distinguish Over Terayama

Claims 2, 9, 29 and 36 are among the claims that the Examiner has identified as dependent claims that would be given favorable consideration if suitably recast in independent form.

As amended, claim 1 essentially places claims 2 and 9 in independent form. Therefore, applicant submits that amended claim 1 and claims dependent thereon (claim 17) are currently in condition for allowance with respect to Terayama.

As amended, claim 28 essentially places claims 29 and 36 in independent form. Therefore, the applicant submits that claim 28 and claims dependent thereon (claim 44) are currently in condition for allowance with respect to Terayama.

Claims 47-50 Patentably Distinguish Over Tabata

Claim 54 is among the claims that the Examiner identified as dependent claims that would be given favorable consideration if suitably recast in independent form.

As amended, claim 47 essentially places claim 54 in independent form. Therefore, the applicant submits that claim 47 and claims dependent thereon (claims 48-50) are currently in condition for allowance with respect to Tabata.

New Claims 55-94 Patentably Distinguish Over Rygiol, Tabata and Terayama

Claims 4, 11, 31, 35 and 38 are among the claims that the Examiner has identified as dependent claims that would be given favorable consideration if suitably recast in independent form.

New claim 55 essentially places claim 4 in independent form. Therefore, the applicant submits that claim 55 and claims dependent thereon (claims 56-62) are currently in condition for allowance.

New claim 63 essentially places claim 11 in independent form. Therefore, the applicant submits that claims 63 and claims dependent thereon (claims 64-74) are currently in condition for allowance.

New claim 75 essentially places claims 31 and 35 in independent form. Therefore, the applicant submits that claim 75 and claims dependent thereon (claims 76-82) are currently in condition for allowance.

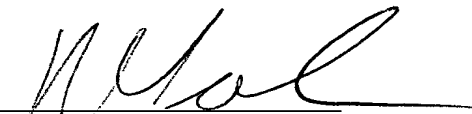
New claim 83 essentially places claim 38 in independent form. Therefore, claim 83 and claims dependent thereon (claims 84-94) are currently in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the applicant submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. Notice of such allowance is hereby respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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